

Switzerland to ban Ex-Nazis

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Building is in full swing in this Canton as in all others. More money is needed for the new building of the University in St. Gall and for the Mittelschule Sargans. The extension of the Cantonal School was opened in June, and a grant of 3.2 million francs has been voted for a new primary school "in Winkeln". The Gemeindekrankenhaus Flawil is being extended, and a project costing over six million francs has been proposed for an additional building for the Heil- und Pflegeanstalt Wil.

The number of traffic accidents are increasing to an alarming degree, it was stated by the police. During the first nine months of this year, 1,886 (1,741) accidents took place on cantonal territory, which resulted in 1,265 (1,147) injured victims and 83 (55) deaths.

An action committee "Pro Rheintal" was formed with the aim of enlightening the population about the proposed thermal power works and refinery. The first mountain village of Switzerland has solved the waste water question in an exemplary way. It is Wildhaus at an altitude of 1,100m. The neighbouring Communes are studying similar projects. 360 boys of the secondary school Bürgli took part in a scheme to clean up the bay of Lake Constance at Altenheim in August. It was not only a successful example to other Communes, but also of educational benefit to the boys.

The Diplomatic Corps visited St. Gall in September, and on 8th October, the famous OLMA, the annual agricultural show of Eastern Switzerland was opened by Federal Councillor Schaffner. 333,000 visitors saw it in the ten days of its duration, a new record in attendance.

A novel idea to make new arrivals welcome in the town is the "St. Galler Party" which is held every Friday evening (6-8 p.m.) at the Hotel Hecht. It is attended by prominent personalities from the political and cultural life of the town.

Amden was host to a UNESCO course on India early in October. A study foundation in favour of the planned technical college was formed at **Buchs**. The village of **Burgau** in the Toggenburg celebrated its millenium in July, and the cristal cave of **Kobelwald** between Oberriet and Rüthi has been preserved. A million francs has been left to several institutions by the late Hans Keusch, resident of **Rapperswil**. The children's zoo opened in 1962 by the Swiss National Circus Knie at Rapperswil has had over half a million visitors already. The municipal library at **Rorschach** has been re-opened, so has the new secondary school building. The teachers' training college celebrated its centenary by opening the recently built extension. **St. Peterszell's** new Protestant church was inaugurated this summer. The St. Gall Secondary Teachers' Conference celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary at their annual meeting at **Walenstadt** in September, and the holiday resort **Weesen**, called the "Nice of St. Gall", started its bicentenary by a culinary week.

APPENZELL AUSSERRHODEN

At the first meeting of the Cantonal Council early in June, additional grants were voted for the completion of the offices at the Zellwegerhaus at Trogen and the new telephone station in the Rathaus. The cost of extending three bridges was also granted. At an extraordinary autumn session at the end of October, the Council debated the draft of the new health law. It will include stricter regulations about unqualified doctors. The final proposal will be put before the Landsgemeinde.

Heiden is to be the home of the new district hospital (9.2m.). The citizens of **Herisau** granted higher salaries for their civil servants (12-15%). **Reute** has elected a new

Commune Clerk of only 19. Walter Baenziger will not be able to sign documents until he comes of age; the "Gemeindehauptmann" will perform this duty as long as the young man is a minor. A new planning and building law was accepted by the electorate of **Speicher**, and **Teufen** granted the necessary credit of 4½ million francs for a Commune waste water plant. An anonymous donor has given **Urnaesch** the sum of Fr.84,000.— for the partial repayment of the debt due to the building of the Realschule. **Walzenhausen** has been the home of a private nursing home for rheumatics since spring.

After the couple Buerki-Gmuenden at Spiecher celebrated their iron wedding early in the year, a second 65th wedding anniversary could be celebrated in Appenzell by Mr. and Mrs. Rutz-Diem at Herisau in the summer.

APPENZELL INNERRHODEN

Very little news has reached us from this Half-Canton, and that dates back to the spring. The Grand Council voted a credit of nearly one million francs towards the construction of a civil defence post at Appenzell. In April, the accounts for 1963 were published. There was a deficit of Fr.270,527.— in the ordinary accounts, which is a little worse than estimated in the budget. Income was nearly 5¼ million francs. The administration accounts showed a surplus of Fr.8,000.— with an income of nearly two million francs. (Basel on news received by courtesy of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse and the Tourist Office of North-Eastern Switzerland.)

SWITZERLAND TO BAN EX-NAZIS

Switzerland is to stop former Nazis from taking up residence in Switzerland, Mr. Ludwig von Moos, the President, said in the National Council. He was replying to a question concerning "former Nazi war criminals who have sought or found refuge" in the country, and the "prejudicial activities of an Egyptian armaments dealer".

Mr. von Moos emphasized that the Federal authorities were determined to avoid situations which could have a harmful effect on good relations with other countries. Among persons now banned from Switzerland, he said, were Hans Walter Zech-Nenntwich, a former S.S. officer who escaped from a west German prison last April and passed through Switzerland on his way to the United Arab Republic (he has since returned to west Germany and given himself up); and Dr. Hans Globke, a former member of the Adenauer Government, who was sentenced *in absentia* by an east German court to life imprisonment for war crimes, and who stayed last July at a villa in Lausanne belonging to his wife. Mr. von Moos said that Dr. Globke subsequently provided an assurance that he would not return to Switzerland.

The President made the point that it was no responsibility of the Government to pass judgment on particular individuals two decades after the end of the Second World War.

On the second part of the question, he said investigations showed that Hassan Sayed Kamal, the Egyptian owner of a Zurich engineering business, had purchased military material abroad for shipment to the United Arab Republic, but it had not passed through Switzerland.

Mr. von Moos referred to the practical difficulties of extending the ban on exports of war materials from Switzerland to cover also machine tools which might subsequently be used for armaments manufacture. He recommended that exporters should exercise discretion.

(*"The Times"*, 9th October 1964.)